

3: a tool for forming an internal screw thread. **4**: an intermediate point in an electric circuit where a connection may be made. **5**: the action or an instance of wiretapping — **on tap** **1**: ready to be drawn from a large container (as a cask or keg) <ale on tap> **2**: broached or furnished with a tap **3**: on hand: AVAILABLE

tap *vi* **tapped; tapping** **1**: to let out or cause to flow by piercing or by drawing a plug from the containing vessel <~ wine from a cask> **2** **a**: to pierce so as to let out or draw off a fluid <~ maple trees> **b**: to draw from or upon <~ new sources of revenue>: as (1) : to cut in on (a telephone or telegraph wire) to get information (2) : to cut in (an electrical circuit) on another circuit **3**: to form a female screw in by means of a tap **4**: to get money from as a loan or gift **5**: to connect (a street gas or water main) with a local supply — **tap-per** *n*

tap *vb* **tapped; tapping** [ME *tappen*, fr. MF *taper* to strike with the flat of the hand, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *täpe* paw; blow dealt with the paw] *vi* **1**: to strike lightly esp. with a slight sound **2**: to give a light blow with <~ a pencil on the table> **3**: to bring about by repeated light blows <tapped out his by-line on the typewriter> **4**: to repair by putting a tap on — **5**: SELECT. DESIGNATE: *specif*: to elect to membership (as in a fraternity) ~ *w* **1**: to strike a light audible blow: RAP **2**: to walk with light audible steps **3**: TAP-DANCE — **tap-per** *n*

tap *n* **1** **a**: a light usu. audible blow; also: its sound **b**: one of several usu. rapid drumbeats on a snare drum **2**: HALF SOLE **3**: a small metal plate for the sole or heel of a shoe

ta-pa \tā-pā, 'tā-pā\ *n* [Marquesan & Tahitian] **1**: the bark of the paper mulberry or of an Hawaiian tree (*Pipturus albidus*) **2**: a coarse cloth made in the Pacific islands from the pounded bark of the paper mulberry, breadfruit, and other plants and usu. decorated with geometric patterns

tap dance *n*: a step dance tapped out audibly by means of shoes with hard soles or soles and heels to which taps have been added — **tap-dance** *vi* — **tap dancer** *n* — **tap dancing** *n*

tape \tāp\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *tæppe*] **1**: a narrow woven fabric **2**: a string stretched breast-high above the finishing line of a race **3**: a narrow flexible strip or band; esp.: MAGNETIC TAPE **4**: TAPE RECORDING

tape *vb* **taped; taping** *vi* **1**: to fasten, tie, bind, cover, or support with tape **2**: to measure with a tape measure **3**: to record on tape and esp. magnetic tape <~ an interview> ~ *vt* **1**: to record something on tape and esp. magnetic tape

tape *adj* **1**: recorded on tape <~ music> **2**: intended for use with recording (as magnetic) tape <a ~ cartridge>

tape deck *n* **1** **a**: a mechanism that moves a tape past a magnetic head (as of a tape recorder) **b**: a device that contains such a mechanism and provisions usu. for the recording as well as the playback of magnetic tapes and that usu. has to be connected to a separate audio system **2**: TAPE PLAYER

tape grass *n*: a submerged aquatic plant (*Vallisneria spiralis* of the family Vallisneriaceae) with long ribbonlike leaves

tape-line \tā-plīn\ *n*: TAPE MEASURE

tape measure *n*: a narrow strip (as of a limp cloth or steel tape) marked off in units (as inches or centimeters) for measuring

tape player *n*: a self-contained device for the playback of recorded magnetic tapes

ta-per \tā-pər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *tapor*; *taper*] **1** **a**: a slender candle **b**: a long waxed wick used esp. for lighting candles, lamps, pipes, or fires **c**: a feeble light **2** **a**: a tapering form or figure **b**: gradual diminution of thickness, diameter, or width in an elongated object **c**: a gradual decrease

taper *adj* **1**: progressively narrowed toward one end **2**: furnished with or adjusted to a scale: GRADUATED <~ freight rates>

taper *vb* **ta-pered; ta-per-ing** \tā-p(ə)-rīŋ\ *w* **1**: to become progressively smaller toward one end **2**: to diminish gradually ~ *vi*: to cause to taper

ta-per-er \tā-pər-ər\ *n*: one that applies or dispenses tape

ta-pe-re-cord \tā-pri-'kō(ə)rd\ *vi* [back-formation fr. *tape recorder*] **1**: to make a recording of on magnetic tape

tape recorder *n*: a device for recording on magnetic tape; esp.: a combination of such a device and a playback device including a built-in power amplifier and a loudspeaker

tape recording *n*: magnetic recording on magnetic tape; also: a recording made by this process

ta-per-er \tā-pər-ər\ *n*: one who bears a taper in a religious procession

taper off *vb*: TAPER

tap-es-try \tāp-ə-strē\ *adj* **1**: covered or decorated with or as if with tapestry **2**: woven or depicted in tapestry

tap-es-try \tāp-ə-strē\ *n*, *pl* **tries** [ME *tapis*, modif. of MF *tapisserie*, fr. *tapisser* to carpet; cover with tapestry, fr. OF *tapis* carpet, fr. Gk *tāpēs* rug, carpet] **1**: a heavy handwoven reversible textile used for hangings, curtains, and upholstery and characterized by complicated pictorial designs **2**: a nonreversible imitation of tapestry used chiefly for upholstery **3**: embroidery on canvas resembling woven tapestry <needlepoint, ~> **4**: something resembling tapestry (as in complexity or richness of design)

tapestry carpet *n*: a carpet in which the designs are printed in colors on the threads before the fabric is woven

ta-pe-tum \tā-pēt-əm\ *n*, *pl* **ta-pe-ta** \tā-pēt-ə\ [NL, fr. L *tape* tape, tapestry, fr. Gk *tāpēs* rug, carpet] **1**: a layer of nutritive cells that invests the sporogenous tissue in the sporangium of higher plants **2**: any of various membranous layers or areas esp. of the choroid coat and retina of the eye

tape-worm \tāp-worm\ *n* [fr. its shape] **1**: any of numerous cestode worms (as of the genus *Taenia*) parasitic when adult in the intestine of man or other vertebrates

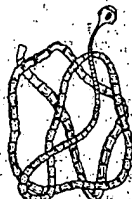
tap-hole \tāp-hōl\ *n*: a hole for a tap; *specif*: a hole at or near the bottom of a furnace or ladle through which molten metal, matte, or slag can be tapped

tap-i-o-ca \tāp-i-ō-kā\ *n* [Sp & Pg, fr. Tupi *typyoca*] **1**: a usu. granular preparation of cassava starch used esp. in puddings and as a thickening in liquid food; also: a dish (as pudding) containing

tapioca **2**: a cassava plant — called also *tapioca plant*

ta-pir \tā-pər\ also *tā-pi(ə)r* or *tā-pi(ə)r* *n*, *pl* **tapis** or **tapis** [Tupi *tapiira*] **1**: any of several large inoffensive chiefly nocturnal ungulates (family Tapiridae) of tropical America, Malaya, and Sumatra related to the horses and rhinoceroses

ta-pis \tāp-ē\ *n* [MF — more at TAPESTRY] **obs**: tapestry or similar material used for hangings and floor and table coverings — **on the tapis**: under consideration <two more large jobs on the tapis> — J. D. Beresford



tap-off \tāp-ōf\ *n*: TAP-OFF

tap-pet \tāp-ət\ *n* [irreg. fr. *tap*] **1**: a lever or projection moved by some other piece (as a cam) or intended to tap or touch something else to cause a particular motion

tapping *n*: the act, process, or means by which something is tapped

tap-pit hen \tāp-ət-\ *n* [Sc *tappit*, alter. of E *topped*] **1** *Scot*: a crested hen **2** *Scot*: a drinking vessel with a knob on the lid

tap-room \tāp-rūm, -rūm\ *n*: BARROOM

tap-root \tā-rūt, -rūt\ *n* [*tap*] **1**: a primary root that grows vertically downward and gives off small lateral roots **2**: one that has a deep central position in a line of growth or development

tapeworm

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taps \tāps\ *n*, *pl* but sing or *pl* in constr [prob. alter. of earlier *tapiroo* tattoo — more at TATTOO]

1: the last bugle call at night blown as a signal that lights are to be put out; also: a similar call blown at military funerals and memorial services

tap-sal-tee-rie \tāp-səl-'tē-rē\ *adv* [by alter.] *Scot*: TOPY-TURVY

tap-ster \tāp-stər\ *n*: one employed to dispense liquors in a barroom

tar \tār\ *n* [ME *terr*, *tarr*, fr. OE *teoru*; akin to OE *trēow* tree — more at TREE] **1** **a**: a dark brown or black bituminous usu. odorless viscous liquid obtained by destructive distillation of organic material (as wood, coal, or peat) **b**: a substance in some respects resembling tar; esp.: a condensable residue present in smoke from burning tobacco that contains combustion by-products (as resins, acids, phenols, and essential oils) **2** [short for *tar-paulin*]

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tar *vi* **tarred; tar-ring**: to smear with or as if with tar — **tar and feather**: to smear (a person) with tar and cover with feathers as a punishment or indignity

tar or tarre \tār\ *vi* **tarred; tar-ring**: tars or tarres [ME *terren*, *tarren*, fr. OE *tyrwan*]: to urge to action — usu. used with *on*

Tara-ca-hi-tian \tā-rā-kā-'hē-shān\ *adj* [*Tarahumara* a Mexican people] + *Cahita* a Mexican people]: of, relating to, or constituting a language family of the Uto-Aztecan phylum

tar-a-did-dle or **tar-ra-did-dle** \tā-rā-'dīd-əl, 'tā-rā-'dīd-əl\ *n* [origin unknown] **1**: a minor falsehood: FIB **2**: pretentious nonsense

tar-an-tel-la \tā-rān-'tēl-ə\ *n* [It, fr. *Taranto*, Italy] **1**: a vivacious folk dance of southern Italy in 3/4 time

tar-an-tism \tā-rān-'tiz-əm\ *n* [NL *tarantismus*; fr. *Taranto*, Italy] **1**: a dancing mania or malady of late medieval Europe

ta-ran-tu-la \tā-'ranch-(ə)-lā, -rant-'l-ə\ *n*, *pl* **ta-ran-tu-las** also **ta-ran-tu-lae** \tā-rān-'chā-lē, -rant-'l-ē\ [ML, fr. OIt *tarantola*, fr. *Taranto*] **1**: a European wolf spider (*Lycosa tarantula*) popularly held to be the cause of tarantism **2**: any of various large hairy spiders (family Theraphosidae) that are typically rather sluggish and though capable of biting sharply are not significantly poisonous to man

ta-rax-a-cum \tā-'rak-si-kəm\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Ar *tarakhshaqun* wild chicory]: the dried rhizome and roots of the dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) used as a diuretic, a tonic, and an aperient

tar-boosh also **tar-bush** \tār-'būsh, 'tār-\ *n* [Ar *tarbūsh*]: a red hat similar to the fez worn esp. by Muslim men

tar-di-grade \tārd-'ə-grād\ *n* [deriv. of L *tardigradus* slow-moving, fr. *tardus* slow + *grad* to step, go — more at GRADE] **1**: any of a division (Tardigrada) of microscopic arthropods with four pairs of legs that live usu. in water or damp moss — **tardigrade** *adj*

tar-di-ly \tārd-'l-ē\ *adv* **1**: at a slow pace **2**: LATE

tar-dy \tārd-'ē\ *adj* [It, fr. L *tardus*]: SLOW — used as a direction in music

tar-dy \tārd-'ē\ *adj* **tar-di-er; est** [alter. of earlier *tardif*, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *tardivus*, fr. L *tardus*] **1**: moving slowly

2: SLUGGISH **2**: delayed beyond the expected or proper time

3: LATE — **tar-di-ly** \tārd-'l-ē\ *adv* — **tar-di-ness** \tārd-'ē-nəs\ *n* *syn* TARDY, LATE, BEHINDHAND, OVERDUE, shared meaning element

4: not arriving, occurring, or done at the set, due, or expected time

5: not prompt, punctual

tar-dy *n*, *pl* **tardies**: an instance of being tardy (as to a class)

tare \tā(ə)r, 'tē(ə)r-\ *n* [ME] **1** **a**: the seed of a vetch **b**: any of several vetches (esp. *Vicia sativa* and *V. hirsuta*) **2** *pl*: a weed of grainfields usu. held to be the darnel **3** *pl*: an undesirable element

2 *tare* *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OIt *tara*, fr. Ar *tārha*, lit. that which is removed] **1**: a deduction from the gross weight of a substance and its container made in allowance for the weight of the container **2**: COUNTERWEIGHT; esp.: an empty vessel similar to a container used to counterpoise change in weight of the container due to conditions (as temperature or moisture)

3 *tare* *vi* **tared; tar-ing**: to ascertain or mark the tare of; esp.



tarantula 2



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